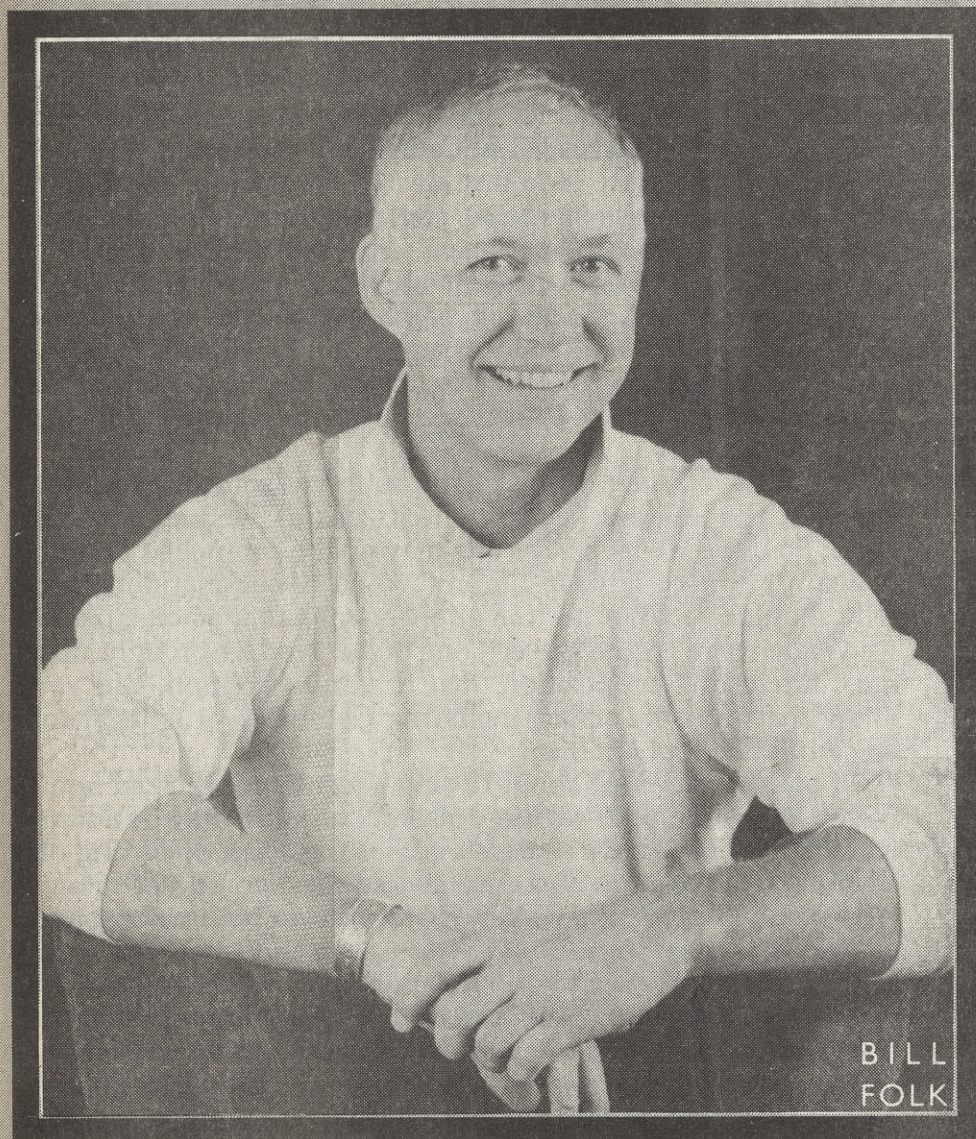


PATLAR

VOICE OF GAY AMERICA

SINCE 1982

OCTOBER 1989



BILL
FOLK

Photo by Sharon Risedorph

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HORNER'S CORNER

by Lee Horner

PATLAR

Voice of Gay America
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Cover Model

Our cover model for this month is Bill Folk, one of America's leading gay songwriter/singers. He has composed more than 200 songs. His first full-length album will be released in September 1990 and will be available at:

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(Legal views and advice that's worth what you paid for it!)
These days it seems that international travel is quite commonplace, certainly more so than even five years ago. Likewise there are a number of non-resident folks desiring to immigrate to the United States for various reasons. However, for many years, it seems that there was a concern, shall we say, for the lifestyle preference of proposed visitors and prospective naturalized citizens to the extent that non-straight were systematically excluded.

We understand that there has been a quiet change of policy among the border patrol/immigration organizations in that they now no longer rely on third-party statements as to one's lifestyle; they ask the individual in question about his preferences and that they are policy bound to accept his answer. This policy seems to be in place now and seems appropriate given the Constitutional right to privacy extended to all citizens and residents of this country; [particularly as more stringently applied under the California Constitution.]

The on-going legal issue that always comes up in discussions about such matters is an interesting one--should the U.S. Constitution (and the California Constitution also for that matter) apply to non-citizen individuals who happen to be found in the United States?

I would say that since the laws of the several states as enacted by our elected representatives apply to such individuals, then the Constitutional protections of, say, free speech, life, liberty, property, etc., should also apply. I don't see how you can really have it any other way.

If we have a law against bank robbery (someone told me we did), the law applies to non-citizens as well as citizens, right? So if the law also says one may not be compelled to testify against himself if his testimony would be self-incriminating, why shouldn't that protection apply equally to the non-citizen?

While we're on the subject, one of our readers brought up a most interesting proposition, that of adult adoption. Did you know that in some states, including California, it is legal for one adult to adopt another?

If one is concerned about having a legally recognized family, and assuming both parties consent, one adult may be adopted by another. This we understand has the effect of cutting off all prior familial lines such that the adoptee could not inherit (absent a will provision to the contrary) from both natural and adoptive parents. But adoption is permanent--you can't un-adopt someone the way you can "un-marry" or dissolve a marriage. Adoption is for keeps and in that regard would be something I would not recommend except in the most unusual of circumstances. If inheritance is the sole motivating factor, my continuing advice is do it by will. A will can be revoked at any time prior to the death of its author yet provides a legally binding order as to the disposition of the author's estate upon his or her death.

NEXT MONTH (and probably the month after that too)--a review of some of the "get rich quick" schemes going around, including some "off shore" banking scams, pyramids, and other ideas guaranteed to get the promoters a room in the local crowbar hotel.

DOUBLE MISCHIEF

What's in a Name?

by Wendy Caster

I am not a slut--nor am I a tramp, a harlot, a trollop, a nymphomaniac, or a whore. On the other hand, I am not a virgin. Nor am I a wife or a prostitute. So what AM I? There's no word in English to answer that question.

English, a language renowned for its extensive vocabulary, suddenly turns mute when dealing with positive sexuality. The language is fond of chastity, though, particularly for women. Virginity in English is largely a female state of being; while the first definition of "virgin" is "a person who has not experienced sexual intercourse," definitions 2 through 5 specify femaleness, as in "a chaste or unmarried woman; a maiden" (*American Heritage Dictionary, College Edition, 1978*).

Roget's Thesaurus lists three categories of synonyms for "virgin": "girl," "spinster," and "good woman." The thesaurus in WordPerfect software lists the following synonyms for "virgin" as an adjective: "chaste," "innocent," "pure," and "virtuous" in one list, and "pristine," "undefiled," "unpolluted," "unsullied," and "untouched" in another. Even more interesting is the list of antonyms to "virgin": for the noun form, they are "wife" and "prostitute"; for the adjective form, they are "promiscuous" and "defiled."

The most revealing of all is *Roget's* list of words related to unchastity. There are three columns of words, but a sampling provides the general flavor: "indecency," "profligacy," "debauchery," "licentiousness," "defilement," "satyrism," "lust," "adultery," "fornication," "prostitution," "libertine," "wanton," "gay dog," "lecher," "goat," "seducer," "betrayal," "rapist," "strumpet," "wench," "piece," "chippy," "floozy," "courtesan," "scarlet woman," "procurer," and "pimp." Practically lost in this sea of negativity are three positive expressions, all related: "free love," "free-lovism," and "freelovin." Then again, this attitude is not surprising: *Roget's* lists "homosexuality" under "sexual abnormality."

Since my *Roget's* dates from the early 1960s, I looked up "homosexuality" in *The Doubleday Roget's Thesaurus in Dictionary Form* (1977) and in the thesaurus in my software; neither even listed the word. It was more rewarding to look up "gay": my software thesaurus listed "homophile" and "homosexual" among the definitions, and the antonyms were fun: "dull," "melancholy," and "heterosexual." *Doubleday*, on the other hand, did not acknowledge homosexuality at all.

Of course, reference books are only reflections of a language, as language is the reflection of a people. And we English-speaking people seem to be very negative about sex. Look at our curses: "fuck you," "cunt," "prick," "pussy," cock-

(Continued on Page 4. See *Mischief*.)

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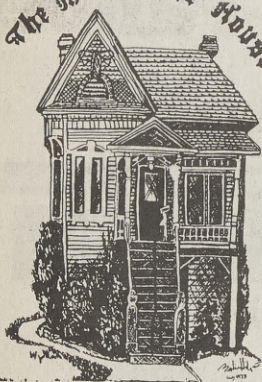
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Mischief (Continued from Page 3.)

"sucker," "twatlick," and "asshole" are all highly antisexual. What are our prosexual words? "Vagina" and "penis," while not pejorative, don't exactly slide off the tongue with sensuous ease. "Clitoris" sounds botanical. "Intercourse" and "relations" are unlikely to send anyone's pulse racing. "Making love" is positive as far as it goes, but it is more about romance than about sex; it's nice when the two mesh, but sex without romance still deserves its own positive vocabulary.

Our sexual language treats heterosexual men somewhat better: there are no female or gay male equivalents for "ladies' man," "big-time operator," "Don Juan," "Casanova," and "heartbreaker" in mainstream English. However, even the men fare badly with "philanderer," "satyr," "goat," "dirty old man," and "fornicator."

Language needs to change with the times. Words such as "software" and "microchip" were invented along with the physical items they name, just as the word "gay" gained greater acceptance when it became clear that "queer," "pervert," and "invert" were insufficient to describe open and proud homosexuals.

Similarly, it is now time for our language to gain words that deal with having sex in a positive manner. When I came out as a homosexual, I embraced the terms "lesbian" and "gay woman" to describe who I am, yet I have no word to describe myself as a woman who enjoys sex and refuses to be judged according to outdated sexist morality.

So I've invented one:

Erosa (noun, from Greek *Eros*, the god of love): a woman who enjoys sex; used positively; (adj) *erotic*: simultaneously positively sexual and positively female: "The large, dark woman stretched and smiled. 'I'm feeling quite erotic today,' she told me, and winked. (noun) *erosia*: the positive state of having had sex: "The day I gained my *erosia* was the happiest in my life," exclaimed the young *erosa*."

Homophobia and sexism weave through English in its vocabulary, in its pronouns, and in its structure, limiting our freedom of expression. Radical ideas cannot be spread without radical vocabulary. "Erosa" is radical vocabulary since it offers women a choice other than virgin, wife, or slut--a choice whose time has come.

HOROSCOPES

by Dr. Pat Larr

LIBRA (Sep 23-Oct 22): A goblin with a big pumpkin opens his arms to you. You trick and treat!

SCORPIO (Oct 23-Nov 22): Aged to perfection, that's what you'll be saying when an older gentleman shows you his golden rule.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov 23-Dec 21): Relax and get to know one another. That special someone longs to relax with you in a very special way.

CAPRICORN (Dec 22-Jan 19): A new-to-town hostess opens her arms to you. She'll fill one of the holes in your life.

AQUARIUS (Jan 20-Feb 18): It's dark! It's hairy!! It's after you!!! This month you're favorite teddy bear turns ugly. Beware.

PISCES (Feb 19-Mar 20): That cute young queen longs to roll over and play dead. It's up to you to teach this old dog some new tricks.

ARIES (Mar 21-Apr 19): A young blond gets you into a wet and sticky situation. You should have such close encounters!

TAURUS (Apr 20-May 20): A stranger's smile changes your life forever. Hold on to the family jewels unless you want to go to the cleaners.

GEMINI (May 21-Jun 20): That hunk that never gives you the time of day suddenly thinks the sun rises and sets on your ass. You brighten.

CANCER (Jun 21-Jul 22): He's tops in body. Bottom in mind-set. Isn't this just what you've been looking for? Enjoy!

LEO (Jul 23-Aug 22): And you didn't think grown-ups played with toys! This month you get a hint of what your Christmas tree will consist of.

VIRGO (Aug 23-Sep 22): You scratch my back, I'll scratch your . . . this month a close friend does you to a good turn.

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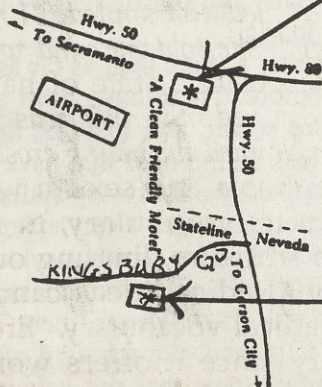
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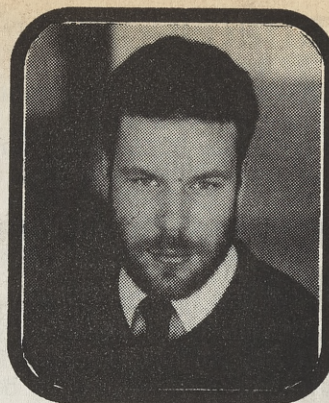
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IN MY OPINION

by Mel Dahl

Remember those boring assignments from grade school about, "What I Did With My Summer Vacation?" This column is about what I did with mine. It involves the Pentagon, a federal judge, and a lot of brief writing.

First the facts. Once upon a time, a few years ago, I was happily serving on active duty in the United States Navy. In the course of a background investigation for the renewal of a top secret security clearance (a clearance I had held for well over a year) the naval authorities discovered that my sexual orientation is such that I will probably never be invited to preach at Jerry Falwell's home church. I was verbally notified that I was being investigated for dismissal under a policy that forbids gay people to serve in the military. I immediately fired off a letter to my senator identifying myself as a gay man

"... I am taking a tactic that, as far as I know, has never been tried before ..."

being discharged from the Navy for that reason and asked him to introduce legislation to end the military's discriminatory policies toward homosexuals. I clumsily left a copy of the letter where my commanding officer intercepted it. I was discharged shortly thereafter. I filed a lawsuit seeking to have the regulation declared unconstitutional, and for reinstatement. After six years the Navy has finally run out of stalling tactics, and we are about to go to trial.

I am tacking a tactic that, as far as I know, has never been tried before. There have been about a dozen gay military cases so far, and some of them have won and some have lost. In the ones that have lost, the court has generally adopted the following rationale: If the regulation in question impinges a fundamental right, the standard of review is strict scrutiny, which means the government will lose if any possible less restrictive alternative is available. If, however, there is no fundamental right being impinged, the standard of review is rational review, which means that the government will win if there is a possible valid basis for the regulation. Homo-

(Continued on Page 10. See *Opinion.*)



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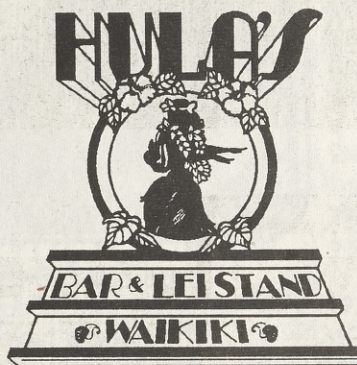
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RAMBLINGS of

NOTE...

by Carl

"To Be or Not To Be..."

That IS the question!...

Before the film "Hamlet" begins, a voice announces, "This is the story of a man who could not make up his mind."... Is indecision going to be the epitaph inscribed on the tombstone when we gays as a community are laid to rest? Are we individually and collectively going to ponder a problem until, like Hamlet, it overcomes us?

The latest rash of fag bashings in San Francisco, New York, Sacramento and elsewhere has made us fearful of what we are. Threatening to either drive us into the grave or back into the closet. This kind of fear, for life and limb--to constantly have to look over one's shoulder to safeguard one's life--is new to many. New and therefore even more terrifying!

Although new to those who have come out in this age and country of enlightenment, it is not a new fear to many, for the FEAR OF INTIMIDATION born of hate, which in turn is born of intolerance spawned from ignorance, is twin to the human race. In its wake many have fallen, a few remembered. Many others have survived and striven not to be forgotten!

The Jews have seen it and faced up to it for over two thousand years. They have found,



within them, the ability to both resist and accept with dignity. The Blacks have seen the enemy and met him. The elderly took up arms and conquered. They all have seen the face of bigotry and made it wince at its mirror image. No minority has or will escape the horror until it itself is laid to rest!

It has been said that history repeats itself. On the flipside, it has been said that humankind must learn from history for it to survive. Must history repeat itself? Can we learn from history? Or can we learn from history by making it repeat itself?

The violence against minorities in the 60s and 70s erupted into counter violence that extracted too high a price from the cowardly packs to make the attacks attractive, and thereby assured survival of the oppressed. Anti-Black violence gave birth to the Black Panthers; violent attacks on the elderly,

thought to be easy prey, gave birth to the Grey Panthers; the fag-bashing of that time gave birth to the Lavender Panthers.

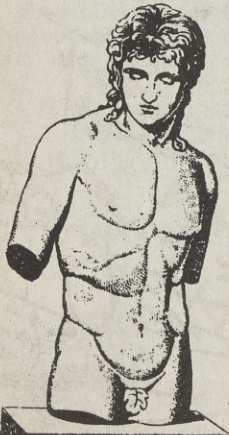
As history repeats itself with the rebirth of fag-bashings, has it also come full circle and is it time for history to repeat itself as well with the resurrection of the Lavender Panthers?

Recently, a political columnist in California commenting on "international terrorism"

on the United States and its citizenry and the government's reaction thereto said, (and I am paraphrasing) "... as long as we (the government) were content to negotiate, to mediate and seek peaceful means like civilized people, the terrorism and the murders continued. As soon as we showed force and threatened retaliation, the murders stopped and terrorists weakened their stance. Maybe this was because those who inflict terror are NOT civilized!"

For those of us who believe it is best/wisest to follow the Bible's teachings, maybe it would be a good idea to review the Old Testament. Maybe "an eye for an eye, a tooth for a tooth" does have its merit. What do you think? Our readers and I would like to know. Remember: Indecision is a decision and will get a response!

Until next time, may the curtain go up on your most perfect day.



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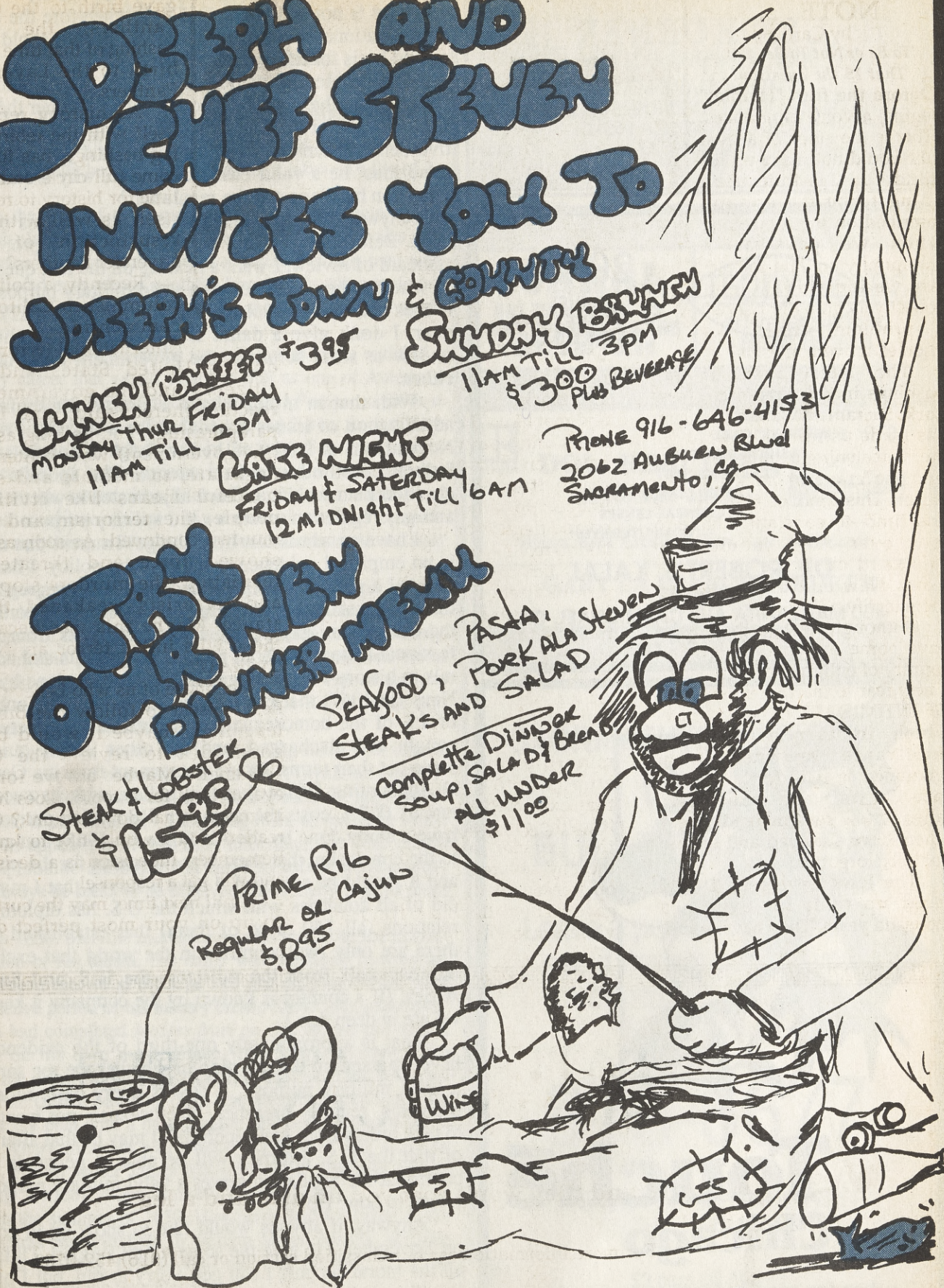
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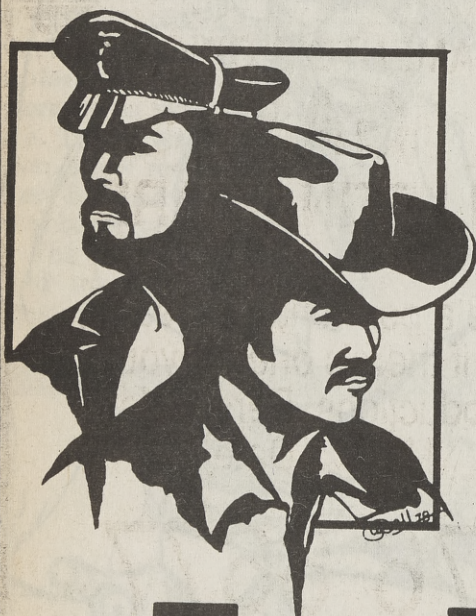
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Opinion (Continued from Page 6.)

sexuality is not a fundamental right, therefore the standard is rational review, and a rational person could find a valid basis for the regulation. Next case.

The problem with that analysis is that it tends to sweep under the rug the fact question of whether there is a valid basis for the regulation. The relatively conservative bench listens to its gut instincts and just assumes there must be a valid basis; otherwise, why would the Pentagon have enacted the regulation?

Anyway, I have decided to stand the process on its head. Before there is any discussion of the appropriate standard of review, I want a hearing on the fact question of whether the policy serves a valid military purpose. If it does not, then to quote the famous movie, frankly, my dear, I don't give a damn if the standard is rational review or strict scrutiny; the government loses under either.

With that in mind, I have a motion for summary adjudication of issues scheduled for a hearing Friday, November 3 at 9:00 a.m. before Judge Schwartz at the federal courthouse in Sacramento. The specific fact question I am seeking to have adjudicated is whether the anti-gay regulation serves a valid military purpose.

I have an admission from the government that there is no empirical evidence to support the policy. I have a copy of a pre-1948 policy mandating racial segregation that uses exactly the same arguments--word for word--as the current anti-gay policy. I have affidavits from professional historians about prominent generals and admirals in history who were gay. I have a study done by the Navy (in 1957) that came to the conclusion that only .7 of 1% of the homosexuals on active duty are actually caught and discharged, and the other 99.3% quietly serve out their terms. I have a statement from the General Accounting Office that this policy, with its success rate of .007%, costs the taxpayers \$18 million per year. I have a study done by the Air Force (in 1965) that came to the conclusion that there was no reason for the policy and it should be scrapped. I have a survey that I myself did of all countries with which the U.S. has diplomatic relations (all 150 or so of them) that established that there are only two countries in the world that exclude homosexuals from the military--the U.S. and South Africa. (If a country is known by the company it keeps, we are in deep doo.)

That is approximately one-third of the evidence I have amassed on the question of whether the reg serves a valid military purpose. It covers every base: morale problems, security breaches, heterosexuals not wanting to take orders from gay superiors. It may be that after all of that the U.S. attorney will be able to persuade the court that the regulation serves a valid military purpose. I want to how: How?

Anyway, if anyone would like to show up in court on November 3 to give me some moral support, I'll take all the moral support I can get. Sorry to run, but I have an affidavit for a retired gay admiral that I have to finish drafting.

GAY HISTORY

by Terry Boughner, Ph.D.

Art, in whatever form it takes, arises from a dream in the mind of the artist. It is a dream so intense that it possesses the artist, finally becoming so vivid that it takes on a life of its own.

In the case of gay artists such as Michelangelo or the English playwright, Christopher Marlow, the dream is of a perfect lover. Most often this meant a beautiful young man with deep, liquid eyes whose youthful form and loveliness of soul are beyond compare. Such was also the dream of the American writer Herman Melville.

In 1850, Melville, at the age of 31, was in the midst of a literary career that would establish him as one of America's greatest writers. He had already published *Fragments from a Writing Desk*, *White Jacket*, *Redburn*, and *Typee*, the last three books stories of his adventures in the South Seas. As the century reached its halfway point, he was hard at work on what would be his masterpiece, *Moby Dick*. He was married and the father of two, "a man of substance" as the Victorians would say, living a life that was placid and normal. At least outwardly.

However, Melville was anything but placid. If all writing is, as I think it to be, autobiographical, we can see him in the characters of his novels, storm-tossed, questioning, searching, with a morbid puritan fixation on sin and redemption. Yet in the midst of the tempest there is always an eye of calm--a young man whose purity and innocence are matched and heightened by his wonderful beauty.

In *Typee*, the youth has "rich, curling hair" with cheeks that are "soft and beardless." He is the "Polynesian Apollo," while in *Redburn*, Melville adds details such as "large, black eyes and silken muscles." The young man, no matter in which book he appears, is always fully masculine, but with certain hermaphroditic attributes that serve to soften his character; and always he seeks to be involved emotionally with an older man.

In 1850, Melville met the man who was to be the materialization of his dream. His name was Nathaniel Hawthorne. Hawthorne was 46 at the time and just entering on the most productive period of his literary career. Some four years earlier, he had completed *Mosses from an Old Manse* and was at work on his own masterpiece, *The Scarlet Letter*. Like Melville, Hawthorne was a family man, married with two children. Unlike Melville, there was no turbulence to him. He was a shy man with a quiet reserve that he kept drawn about him. Where Melville was stocky, Hawthorne was slight of build. Fellow writer James Russell Lowell described him as having "a willowy form of nearly virginal beauty."

In the summer of 1850, Hawthorne had his home in the Berkshires near Pittsfield in western Massachusetts. Melville came to the area, first to visit and then to live. There on August 5, 1850 the two men met.

Characteristically, Hawthorne had little to say of their

(Continued on Page 12. See *History*)

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History (Continued from Page 11.)

first meeting. Equally within character, Melville did not hesitate to express his feelings to which he gave vent in a review of *Mosses from an Old Manse*, published in *The Literary World*.

Writing about the author, Melville converts the timid Hawthorne into a magnetic personality, a man with a voice like "thunder" who had "dropped germinous seeds into my soul." He writes that Hawthorne's "spicy and slowly-oozing heart" had wrapped "a soft ravishment" about him.

For nearly 15 months, Melville and Hawthorne were neighbors. Meville who had never been much of a letter writer suddenly became prolific. He compared the 46-year-old recluse to Apollo "in all your beauty and power" and told Hawthorne that "your precious, melting heart has impregnated me."

What was Hawthorne's reaction to all this? It is hard to tell. With a certain disregard for history, Melville consigned all Hawthorne's letters to him to the flames. But perhaps we can gather some indication from a reply to one of Hawthorne's letters.

Melville compared the two of them to Socrates and Alcibiades. In a day when Greek history was far more familiar than now, it can be assumed that both knew of the story of the young lover spurned by the older man. That Melville would allude to it, I think, is testimony to both the nature of the relationship, at least in Melville's mind, and to its end.

After Hawthorne left Pittsfield in 1851, Melville saw him only once. Melville was on his way to the Mediterranean and broke his journey to visit Hawthorne in England. According to Melville, they walked along a beach, he doing the talking always. They parted with a handshake. That was it.

Hawthorne died in 1864 leaving Melville sorrowing deeply. He wrote:

*"To have known him, to have loved him
After loneliness long;
And then to be estranged in life
And neither in the wrong;
And now for death to get his soul--
Ease me, a little ease, my song!"*

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A literary journal will debut this winter. **TRIBE**, a quarterly, will feature fiction, poetry and essays by and about gay men. Manuscripts are now being solicited.

TRIBE will be distributed nationally. Columbia Publishing Company publishes books and is much involved with book design, typography, and book production for other publishers (art books is its specialty).

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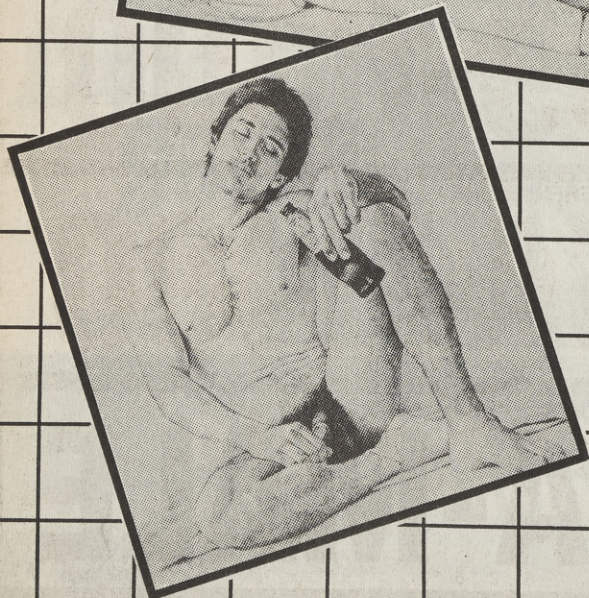
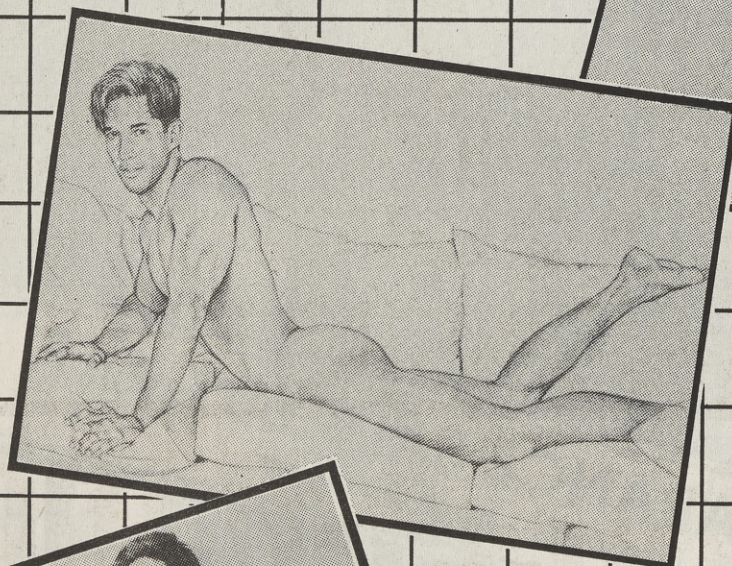
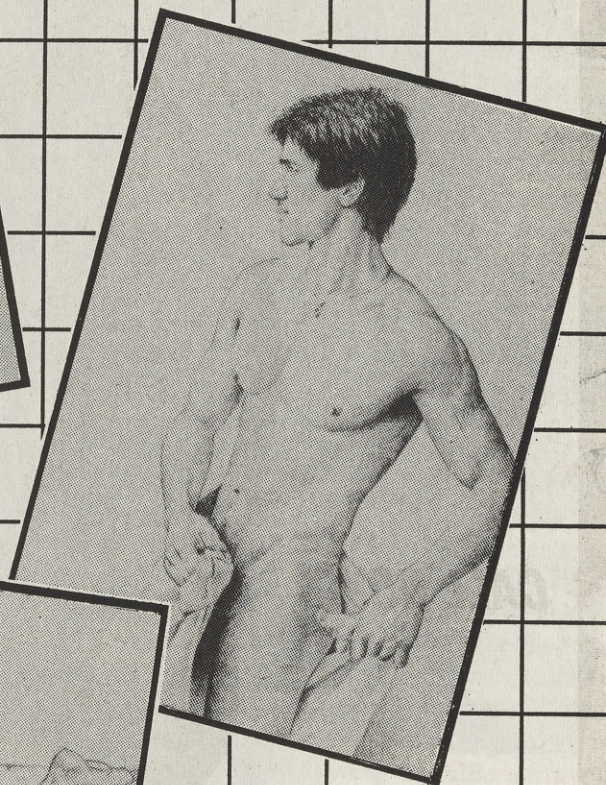
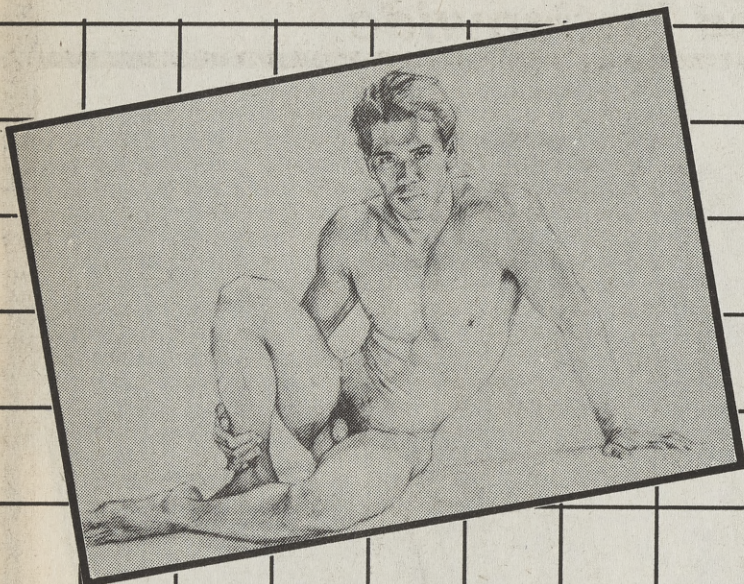


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THE NEXT WAVE

by Douglas N. Lewis

Shadows In Memory



I lost another friend to AIDS last week. An ex-lover this time. Someone who, at one time, I had loved passionately and who touched my life in ways that I cannot fully comprehend, even to this day. Someone who was too much the boy, too vulnerable, too gentle for this world. And he's gone.

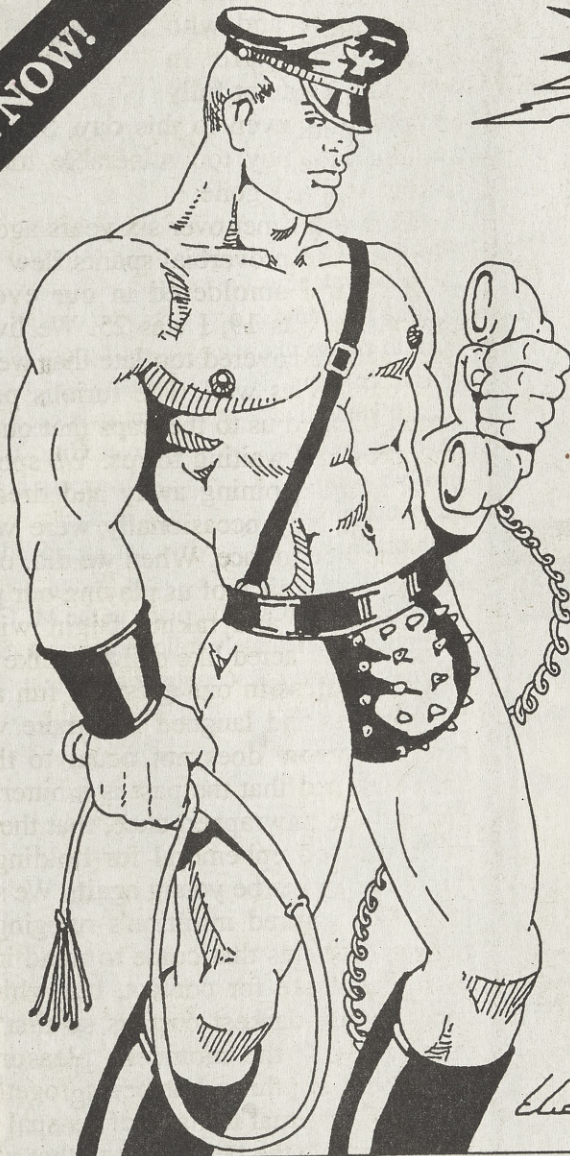
Carl and I met over six years ago. We met each other and the proverbial sparks flew between us, lit us afire and smoldered in our every touch and glance. He was 19, I was 25. We lived in separate cities and discovered too late that we lived in separate realities as well. The furious passion that we shared blinded us to the traps that our different personalities had waiting for us. We spent nine tumultuous months pining away and dreaming of each other, and only occasionally were we able to join together face to face. When we did, our lovemaking was limitless, each of us playing our part in the other's fantasies and taking flight within our own ecstasies. We acted like children, like young boys at play, boundless in our quest for fun and adventure. We romped and laughed like there was no tomorrow; tomorrow does not occur to the young. We hadn't learned that the past is a bittersweet gift that can only be unwrapped once, that the present is too swift and too ephemeral for holding and that the future can never be young again. We swore undying love. We ignored intuition's nagging, those questions and doubts that come to mind in the hearts of those desperate for contact, but which are hidden away in our darkest corners so that they will not interfere with the moment's pleasures. We didn't care about anything but being together and being lost in our mutual tornado of sensual courtship. We lasted through the better part of that year refusing to believe that this wasn't the one we would spend the rest of our lives with. I knew. I tried to tell him at one point, and it hurt him so badly that it nearly broke my heart. But the inevitable finally happened; and we parted--bruised and battered--but friends, to never touch each other so deeply again.

We remained in contact through mutual friends, and when we talked we spoke of our lives as if we were not living them ourselves, but more like we were living somebody else's lives and were just

(Continued on Page 20. See *Shadows.*)

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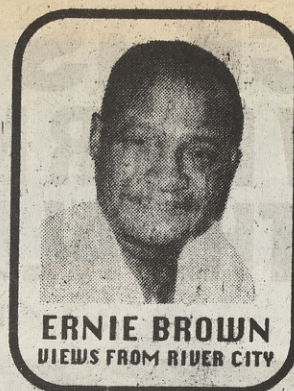
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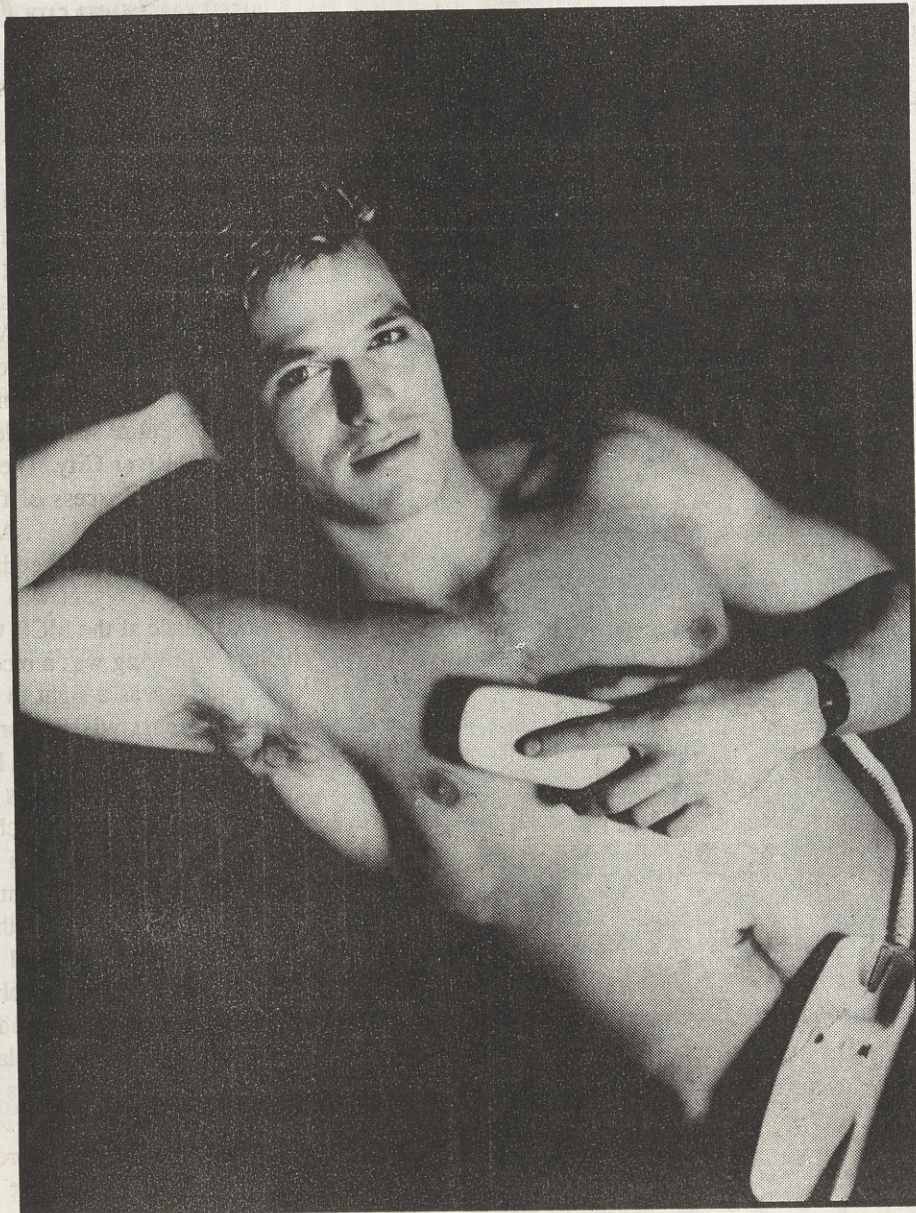
ERNIE BROWN
VIEWS FROM RIVER CITY

CARRYINGS-ON IN GAY SACRAMENTO

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Congrats to everyone involved in the Rainbow Festival. It was one of the hi-lites of 1989. The thing that really got to me was watching the release of hundreds of balloons, each bearing the name of a person who died of AIDS. It was good, also, to see so many gay organizations involved, some twenty-five or more. However, there was room for more. Next year, I would like to see the entire street filled to capacity. We have the resources here in River City. These AIDS benefits involve a lot of preparation. In excess of five-thousand dollars were raised for the Hope House! . . . Another nice event took place since I last wrote for you. Wedding bells rang out for two of lovely locals: Dana Wyant was married to Susan Ulshoffer. Wedding took place at the MCC Church. Beautiful ceremony. Immediately following was a reception at Joseph's Town & Country. Reception was a sight to behold. Congrats to Dana & Sue . . . Our best wishes for the new Grand Duchess, Large Marge, and the new Grand Duke, Frack. You have your work cut out for you. And thanks for a grand ducal weekend . . . River City Metropolitan Church, headed by Rev. Elder Fred Smith, is celebrating its 18th anniversary this month. Happy Anniversary . . . As I mentioned in the last article, gay bashings are one the rise. With that in mind, a group has been formed: Citizens United Against Violence (CUAV). The group focuses on problem solving, such as the distribution of whistles, wallet cards including phone numbers of reporting agencies, etc. CUAV is planning on setting up an office here in River City. I think this is long overdue. Good luck on the greatly needed endeavor . . . The Pillars, a gay social and networking organization, presents in concert country-western duo Open Road. No host cocktails, 6 PM with dinner at 7:30 PM at the Sierra Inn. \$14 per person. October 13. Then on October 27, The Pillars celebrates the "Gay High Holy Days," a costume party with surprises, prizes & fun . . . If you want to hear some beautiful western sounds, the Incredible Edible presents the country sounds of Michael Ross & Verone every Friday nite, 9 PM. This is the same duo that played at the Rainbow Festival . . . Congrats and thank you to Valerie Herman & Nancy Nystrom for reaching their one-hundred-mile destination in their walk against AIDS. All of you who made pledges toward this walk, don't forget to remit those pledges. ▼

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(Shadows Continued from Page 16.)

reporting on them. Most of the time the screen between us allowed only the barest of feeling to seep through, the shallowest of passions to be seen. And yet, despite this unease, quite often there were those looks, those embraces that held a richness and caring that belied our words. There were times when we would be at a party and would catch each other's eyes from across the room, a smile would play between us and we knew. We knew that somewhere, buried far below our outer exchanges, those two young men who met by accident still made happy love, still played those silly love games and still cared very much about the other. I still loved Carl and he knew it. He still loved me and I knew it. We still loved each other and grew in it.

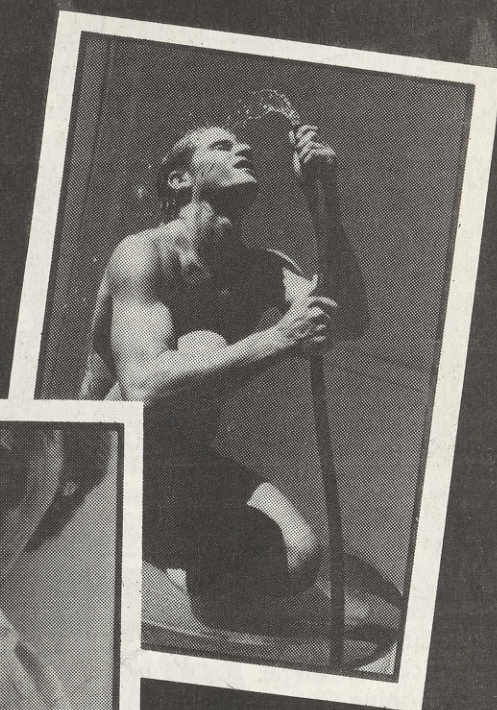
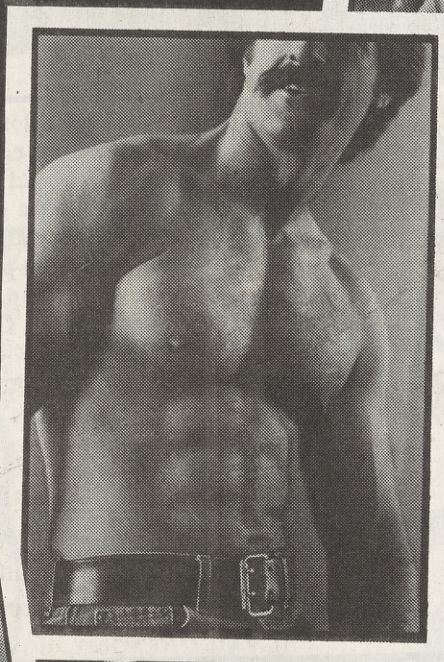
Carl was diagnosed with AIDS two years ago. All I could keep thinking at the time was that he was so young, so vulnerable and so young. I tried to make myself accessible to him in the last couple of years, but it was difficult to be together. Ex-lovers are more like shadows to each other than real people, always there but always on the periphery, hardly able to really embrace. Ex-lovers, like shadows, seem to stretch away even when they are reaching towards each other. It was in this way, however, that I loved him most. From afar, from memory and longing and the past's perfect vantage point. I understood that love shines the soul's brightest light and that light illuminates the object of love for whatever time it has, and then casts a long shadow towards the past. Lovers are the clearest expression of our own inner dreams, our own self-love. Ex-lovers are the shadows of those dreams and the acceptance of ourselves. Our lives, as they become brighter in age and are peopled with more and more loves, throw out more and more shadow until the past overtakes the present's light, and memory is all that's left. Carl shone like the sun in his last days. And his shadow stretches long in his absence now.

At the end of his life, I came to his bedside and held his hand and brushed back his hair and spoke softly to him. He recognized me and squeezed my hand. I told him I loved him and he whispered, as softly as his condition would permit him, that he loved me too. We smiled at each other and a tear slipped between us. I am better for having known him. I am stronger for having loved him. I am more alive for remembering him. God bless you, Carl. ▼

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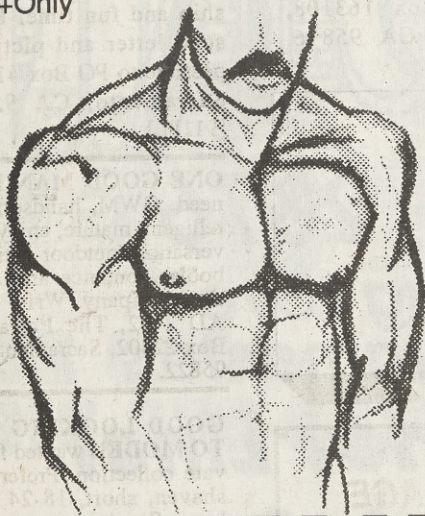
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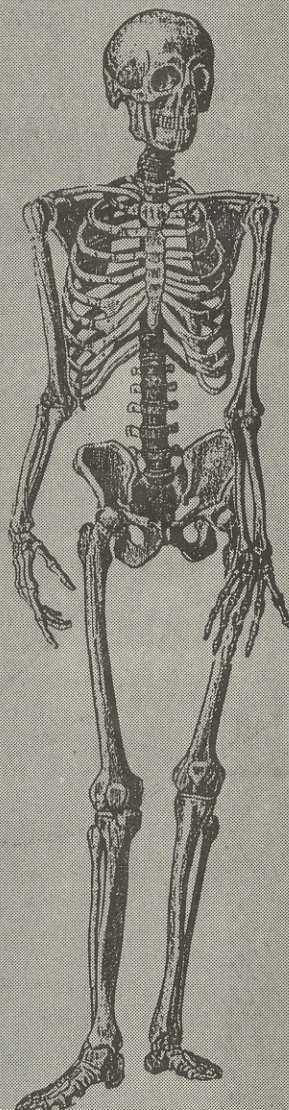
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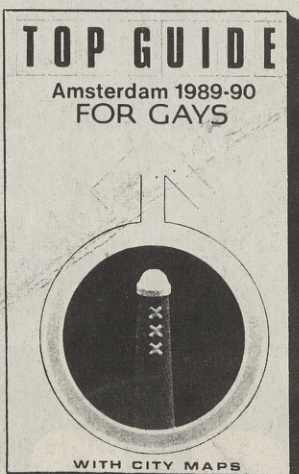
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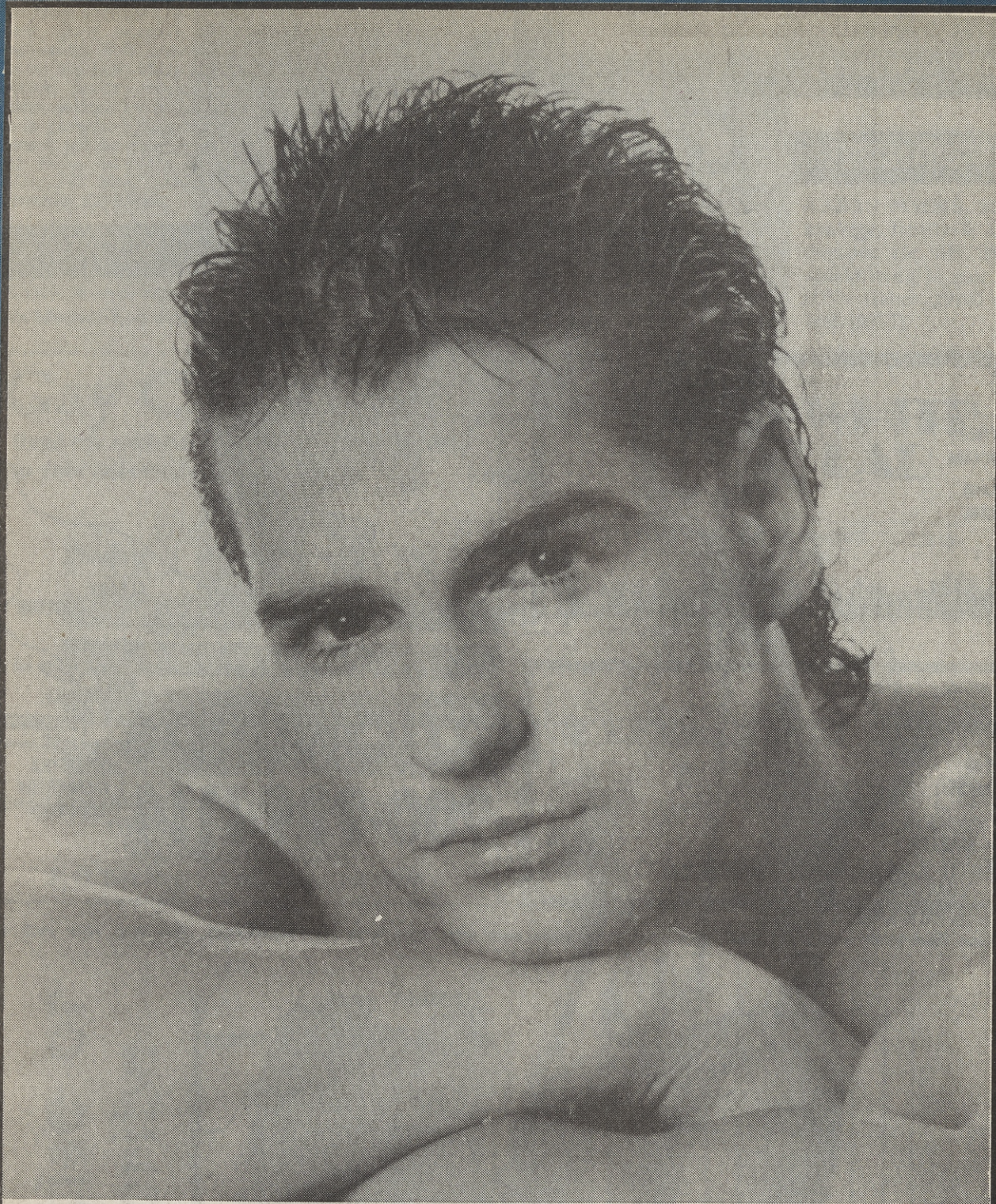
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